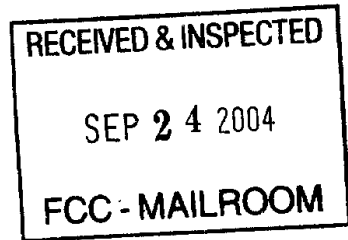


PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

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September 20, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445-12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Irene M. Flannery
Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, NW – Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

This certification is filed in accordance with Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 54.313. The California Public Utilities Commission certifies that SureWest Telephone (Study Area Code 542334) is eligible to receive federal universal service high-cost support pursuant to 47 CFR Section 54.313.

It is further certified that the basic service rates in the areas served by SureWest are reasonably comparable to the national urban rate benchmark.

The federal universal service high-cost support received will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Larson".

Steve Larson
Executive Director

cc: Michael R. Peevey, Commission President
SureWest Telephone

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